

MINUTES
Commission on Student Affairs
316 Squires Student Center
October 8, 1987
4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Dr. Landrum Cross (for Chair Dr. Sullivan), Dr. David Ostroth (for Landrum Cross), Dr. Rosemary Goss, Mr. Rex Donnelly, Mr. Walter Lundy, Ms. Maggie Stemann, Mr. Andre Wormley, Dr. John Hillison, Dr. Robert Morrill, Gen. Howard Lane, Mr. Ralph Kopera, Mr. Dave Baker, Mr. Alan Baird, Mr. Greg Battaglia, Dr. Michael Ogliaruso, Ms. Meg Tomlinson, Ms. Shari Savage (for Mr. Kimble Reynolds), Mr. Brian Stockmoe (for Ms. Denise Shuster), Mr. Gerald Hampton

ABSENT: Mr. Robert Branch

Dr. Cross called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Announcements

Dr. Cross announced that Dr. Sullivan was out of town on an evaluation team assignment and had asked Dr. Cross to chair the Commission meeting in her absence.

Dr. Cross distributed a copy of a memo from Dr. William Van Dresser informing the Commission that his office was actively pursuing approval from Richmond regarding lighting for the South Recreational Field and hoped to have an update on the project by the Commission's October 22, 1987 meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Donnelly announced that University Council had ruled at its October 5, 1987 meeting that it is not necessary to change the University Council Constitution in order to allow CSA to act upon CSA 5/7/87 Resolution 5 (approved by CSA on 5/14/87) regarding the addition of agenda items. Dr. Cross explained that the Resolution allows Commission members to add items to the agenda with the stipulation that items added may be discussed but not acted upon during the meeting at which the new items are introduced.

Mr. Donnelly requested that a discussion of SGA Resolution F-87-3 regarding the policy of X-Rated, Unrated, and Controversial Films, be added as item #5 under New Business.

A motion was introduced and approved to adopt the agenda with the addition.

3. Approval of Commission Minutes of September 24, 1987

A motion was introduced and passed to approve the Commission minutes of September 24, 1987.

4. Reports of Subcommittees

In successive motions, the Commission filed the minutes of the following Student Media Board meetings:

June 1, 1987
June 5, 1987
September 11, 1987

A motion was introduced and passed to file the Student Budget Board minutes of September 17, 1987.

5. Update Regarding the Recognition/Registration of Student Organizations

Dr. Cross introduced Dr. David Ostroth, Director of Student Activities, to update the Commission on the topic of the recognition/registration process for student organizations. Dr. Cross stated that several of the new Commission members had requested the information since they were not involved in last year's discussions and were unfamiliar with the issue.

Dr. Ostroth began by reviewing three CSA Resolutions concerning this issue. He explained that two resolutions, CSA 3-12-87 deleting the Student Constitutional Affairs Board position from CSA, and CSA 2-9-87 deleting the Greek Affairs CSA position and replacing it with one representative each from Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council, were passed by CSA and ultimately, by University Council on April 20, 1987. The third resolution, CSA 1-8-87, proposed replacing the recognition process for all but CSA member organizations with an administrative registration process (in lieu of the Student Constitutional Affairs Board). This resolution was passed in CSA, but was referred by University Council to the Commission on Faculty Affairs for further review.

The issue of concern for University Council is the proposed deletion of the requirement for an organization to have a faculty advisor. The outstanding questions are those of insurance and legal liability for faculty serving in student organization advisor roles. Dr. Ostroth stated that the Commission on Faculty Affairs is studying these issues and is to report back to the University Council with recommendations.

In summary, Dr. Ostroth stated that until the matter is resolved by University Council, the present recognition process is still in effect, and the requirements for a constitution and a faculty advisor still stand.

Dr. Morrill added that the Faculty Senate does plan to study these questions.

6. Approval of Student Media Board Budget for 1987-88

Ms. Stemann introduced a motion to approve, as a package, the Student Media Board Budget, Collegiate Times Budget, Bugle Budget, Photo Lab Budget, WUVT Radio Budget, and the Silhouette Budget. The motion was seconded.

Mr. Hampton inquired of Ms. Stemann what steps the Bugle staff were taking to overcome the 1986-87 deficit of \$19,448.61. Ms. Stemann requested that the Chair recognize the Bugle Editor to respond to Mr. Hampton's inquiry.

Mr. Heath Covey, Bugle Editor was introduced. Mr. Covey stated that the staff has a three-fold plan; 1) to cut back on production costs for 1987-88, 2) to seek the assistance of the Virginia Tech Foundation to raise money or obtain a grant or a loan, and 3) to seek outside resources for a grant or loan. In response to the question of whether or not there would be a 1988 Bugle, Mr. Covey responded that the plan is to produce a 1988 Bugle.

A motion to call the question was made and passed.

The motion to approve the media budget for 1987-88, as presented by the Student Media Board, was passed unanimously.

7. Approval of the Revised-Virginia Tech Union Constitution

Mr. Kopera introduced a motion to approve the Revised Constitution of the Virginia Tech Union. The motion was seconded.

In commenting on the motion, Mr. Kopera pointed out that the change of the constitution requires committee chairmen to have a 2.3 QCA at the point of election rather than a 2.15. He stated that recent VTU experience has been that committee chairmen have fallen below the former 2.15 QCA requirement and have been forced to resign their positions. The new requirement is that they must have a 2.3 QCA at the time they take office and cannot fall below 2.15 during their tenure. It is the hope of the VTU that by requiring a higher initial QCA, they will be able to retain their committee chairmen throughout the year. Mr. Kopera also stated that the VTU was looking at other ways to encourage chairmen to keep up their grades.

The motion to approve the Virginia Tech Union Revised Constitution was passed unanimously.

8. Discussion of the Policy on the Showing of X-Rated, Unrated, or Controversial Films at Virginia Tech

Mr. Baker stated that the reason he asked for a discussion of this policy was to ask the Commission members to consider a full review of the policy. Mr. Baker further stated that he disagreed with the way in which the policy was implemented and that he would like to hear the thoughts of other members of CSA about the policy itself.

Dr. Cross provided some background information regarding the development of the policy. He stated that this issue surfaced during Winter Quarter, 1987, when a request was received from a student organization to show an X-rated film as a fund-raising event. The policy in effect at the time could not be used, since it called for a film review by a group no longer in existence. Student Affairs began the process of developing a revised policy statement that would identify another mechanism by which requests to show X-rated films could be reviewed. When the review by the General Counsel and the Administration of the reactivated policy extended into the summer, it was necessary to take action in July, so that the policy could be in place for the beginning of fall quarter, in the event that other requests to show X-rated films came forward. The policy statement was presented to the Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors as an item of information on administrative action taken to reactivate the policy of reviewing X-rated films.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Donnelly stated their opinion that the policy should have been presented to CSA and reviewed within the university governance system before being implemented. Dr. Ostroth said that using the university governance system would have resulted in there being no policy in place for the beginning of the fall quarter.

Mr. Baird suggested that further discussion of the policy's development be postponed until Dr. Sullivan could be present to participate and that the Commission proceed to discuss policy content under the next agenda item.

Mr. Lundy moved to close discussion on this agenda item. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

9. SGA Resolution F-87-3

Mr. Donnelly stated that this was an informational item regarding actions taken by the SGA Senate in proposing an X-rated film policy.

Mr. Kopera stated that the VTU Programming Council believed that there should be no university policy regarding these types of films, as the market will decide if the student body will want to view them.

Mr. Baird stated that the RHF believes that the policy should be re-written by CSA with student input. Mr. Baird also stated that the RHF is concerned about the possible costs associated with previewing films.

Mr. Lundy stated that the Black Organizations Council has also discussed the issue, and although they did not take any particular stand on the issue, BOC would support action taken by CSA.

Dr. Ostroth commented that in reviewing this issue, CSA should consider weighing the values of free speech against other values represented by community standards.

Mr. Baker and Mr. Donnelly stated their belief that student organizations would be sensitive to community concerns and would not sponsor degrading films, so that previewing films would not be necessary.

Dr. Goss stated that the faculty has expressed concern regarding the policy and that it is on the agenda for discussion at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Mr. Lundy stated that the SGA resolution F-87-3 was fair, clear, and a good resolution regarding the issue. Mr. Kopera recommended that the SGA resolution be revised for CSA action. Mr. Donnelly indicated that he would present a draft resolution for the next CSA agenda.

10. Announcements

Mr. Baird announced that the RHF was holding a Homecoming Information night on October 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Dominion Ballroom. He encouraged everyone to come out and meet the Homecoming Queen candidates and join RHF for a social afterwards.

Ms. Tomlinson announced that the Greeks were completing its Greek Week and that a new Greek Week event, a Greek Sing sponsored by Phi Mu, was a huge success. The winners of the Greek Sing were Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and Kappa Delta Sorority.

Mr. Kopera announced that the VTU was sponsoring a VTU Showplace on October 8 at 8:00 p.m. in the Commonwealth Ballroom to provide students information about the VTU.

Mr. Baker announced that the SGA has selected its faculty advisor for 1987-88, Dr. Paul Smeal.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, -



Jill A. Davison
Secretary

ATTACHMENT
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